

DISTRICT 3

NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT GUIDE

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Councilmember Cynthia Sterling

Greetings from District 3! As a resident and a manager of a small business, who has lived and worked all of my life in District 3, I have been a neighbor to many of you over the years. I know first hand that when neighbors pull together their voices can be heard. ***Join me in the effort to have our neighborhood—District 3—work for us!***

The neighborhood and its residents have become the core of our community. It is incumbent upon us all to build a strong foundation for our city, our district and our neighborhoods.



In this newsletter you will find useful resources and information to empower you with the tools to help build ***neighborhoods that work.***

Inside this issue:

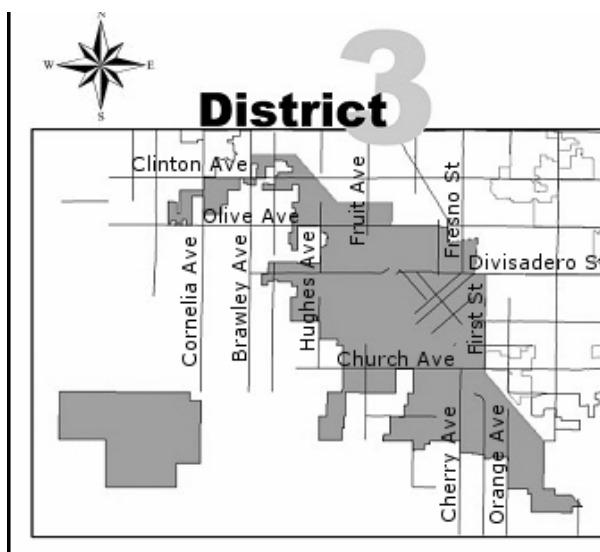
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ADOPT-A-SCHOOL

Councilmember Sterling is in search of businesses who would like to adopt a school to provide additional resources (after school activities, learning materials, etc.).

If interested, please contact Councilmember Sterling at 621-8000.

We're on the web!
www.fresno.gov



Neighborhood Empowerment Information

ANIMALS

Farm animals such as rabbits, ducks, chickens, pigs, goats, sheep, cows, and horses are not permitted in residentially zoned districts. Call **621-8400**.

Animal neglect or loose dog complaints should be referred to the SPCA at **233-7722**. Animal bite complaints should be referred to the County of Fresno at **445-3385**.

BUSINESS

You may not operate a business out of your home for the repair, manufacture, process, sale, display, or trade of goods, materials, or objects. There are strict rules regulating running a business out of your home. Very few professions comply with the provisions of the home occupation code. Call the Development Department at **621-8300** if you are interested in more information.

GRAFFITI

For assistance with graffiti removal, to volunteer for a graffiti removal program, or to obtain a graffiti removal kit, please call the Graffiti Hotline at 621-8247. To report a "tagger," please call *Get Magic* (**GT MAGIC or 486-2442**).

HOUSING PROGRAMS

Rehabilitation Programs through the Housing Authority

RDA Minor Rehabilitation Program: Conditional grant of up to \$6,500 to paint the exterior, build a new fence, repair the roof, remove rubbish & debris, repair a driveway, repair windows and doors, trim the trees, repair an air conditioner, install exterior lighting, health and safety items and more. For more information please call **445-8905**.

City HOME Moderate Rehabilitation: A forgivable loan up to \$12,500 for roofing, heating, air conditioning, smoke alarms, electrical, plumbing, water heater, exhaust fans, painting, windows, security bars, security doors and similar health and safety items. For more information call **445-8905**.

RDA Major Rehabilitation Program: Deferred zero interest loan up to \$29,520 to upgrade electrical, replace floor coverings, add insulation, install new cabinets & counter tops, add ceramic tile to kitchen & bath, paint inside and outside, replace the roof and more. Please call **445-8905**.

City HOME Major Rehabilitation Program: Deferred zero interest loan up to \$29,520. In addition to HOME Moderate rehabilitation, replacement of: heating systems, electrical panels, kitchen and bath - cabinets, counter tops, light fixtures, flooring, insulation, lead base paint abatement, health and safety items and more. Please call **445-8905**.

Housing Assistance

The Fresno Housing Authority offers a number of housing assistance programs. For more information, please call the Housing Authority at **443-8400**.

Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) Program: For information on the MCC, please call the Fresno Housing Authority at **443-8400**.

Senior Home Paint Program

The City of Fresno offers a House Paint Program to low-income seniors who own their homes. Because this is a "free" grant to seniors (age 62 or older), there are many applicants each year. This is on a first come, first serve basis and funds are limited. For further information call Maureen Barnes at **621-8514**.

Home Buyer Assistance Program

The Home Buyer Assistance Program helps low-income home buyers purchase their first home by providing financing in the form of deferred/forgivable loans. There is up to \$40,000 available to help close the "gap" between the sales price of the home (including closing costs) and the primary loan amount plus the required down payment. In order to qualify, a prospective buyer must be a first time home buyer; meet the income requirements; contribute at least 3% of the home sale price as a down payment; complete a city approved home buyer education training class; and qualify for a home purchase mortgage. For more information, call the Housing and Community Development at **621-8300**.

Housing Problems

Renters: Assistance is available in the following areas: tenant/landlord disputes, evictions advice on substandard housing complaints. Please call Fresno County RentSense at **488-3500**, the Better Business Bureau - Dispute Settlement Center at **222-8111**, Central California Legal Services at **441-1611**, or Centro LaFamilia at **237-2961**.

Minimum standards for dwellings are required by the Uniform Housing Code and the California State Health and Safety Code. These standards include such items as requiring adequate heat, plumbing, and electrical systems. If repairs are needed, tenants are encouraged to first work with their landlords to have repairs made. However, if assistance is needed, please call Code Enforcement Division at **621-8400**.

Public Nuisance: Any abandoned buildings which may attract malicious mischief activity or trespassing should be reported by calling **621-8400**.

Health Hazards: Lead-based paint poisoning is especially dangerous to children under the age of seven. If you suspect your child or another member of your household has ingested lead-based paint, paint chips, or dust particles containing lead, contact the Fresno County Health Department at **445-3330**.

Neighborhood Empowerment Information Continued

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Enhance your area's positive sense of community by forming and maintaining a Neighborhood Watch Program and cooperatively working out general neighborhood problems. Call your District Policing Office either **Central District 621-6200** or **Southwest District 621-6100** for assistance.

NOISE

Excessive noise can detract from the quality of life in a neighborhood. It is important that neighbors work together, privately, to solve minor problems, like barking dogs. The City of Fresno does not get involved in these disputes and, if courteous communication is not successful, you should contact a private attorney. For other more serious or persistent problems:

Loud Parties - Call the Fresno Police Department at **621-2200**.

Construction Noise - Call the Fresno Building and Safety Division at **621-8104**.

Industrial or Commercial Noise/Activities - Call **621-8400**.

PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING PROGRAM AND CARE FRESNO PROGRAM

The Fresno Police Department's Problem Oriented Policing (POP) Program was established to "decriminalize" a specific target area. The program utilizes assistance from other City departments, public and private service providers, community organizations, businesses, schools, property owners, and residents to remove the criminal element and stabilize the area. The program identifies target areas based on the number of calls for service or evidence that criminal activity is occurring.

Once the POP team has successfully removed the criminal element there is a tendency for other criminals to move back in. It is the intent of the Care Fresno Program to prevent that from happening. Working together, the Fresno Police Department and the Evangelicals for Social Action for the Care Fresno Team. Care Fresno focuses the efforts of their volunteers to empower residents by providing guidance, counseling and support to families that have been affected by a recent POP operation. These families typically live in apartment complexes and volunteers typically "adopt" the whole complex in an effort to keep trouble makers away. For more information call your District Policing Office either **Central District 621-6200** or **Southwest District 621-6100**.

STREET FLOODING

Heavy rain brings much needed water to our beautiful valley. Sometimes it fills our streets and roadways so that passage

is difficult. Questions regarding urban drainage problems? Please call the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District at **456-3292**. To report illegal dumping into the storm drainage system call **456-3292**.

STREETLIGHTS

Is the streetlight burning brightly? Or is it flickering? Is it burned out? Did you know that it actually saves money to replace a flickering streetlight before the bulb burns out? Report flickering and burned out streetlights by calling the Traffic Signals and Streetlights Section at **621-1312**.

STREET SWEEPING

For questions regarding street sweeping, please call Community Sanitation Division at **621-1447**. For rubbish or trash in the street, please call the Street Maintenance Division at **621-1492**.

TIRES

It is unlawful to store or dump tires on residential or vacant lots. City of Fresno residents wishing to dispose of tires at the City operated tire disposal facility may call the Code Enforcement Division at **621-8400** to arrange for an appointment. A disposal fee is charged. **To help solve this problem, please remember to leave your old tires with your dealer!**

TRASH & DEBRIS

"Operation: CLEAN-UP" is designed to assist residents within the City limits in the removal of excess debris, trash, rubbish, and bulky goods, such as, old stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, etc., not normally removed through solid waste disposal service. This service is provided once a year. It is important that residents not place their discards out more than seven days in advance of their scheduled pickup. Please call the Community Sanitation Division at **621-1447** for the scheduled time in your area.

For questions regarding garbage pickup or trash around the container, please call Solid Waste Management Division at **621-1811**.

The accumulation of garbage, trash, appliances, car parts, old furniture, scrap materials, and overgrown vegetation is considered a public nuisance. To file a complaint call the Code Enforcement Division at **621-8400**.

VEHICLE PARKING

Vehicles parked on private residential property must be parked on driveways, in a garage, or a carport. Vehicles cannot be parked on dirt, lawn, or landscape areas. Call **621-8400**.

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Neighborhood Empowerment Information Continued

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Inoperable vehicles cannot be parked on the street or stored on private property unless fully enclosed within a legal structure, i.e., garage. Car covers are not acceptable. For inoperable vehicles on private property, call the Code Enforcement Division at **621-8400** and for inoperable vehicles on the street, call the District Police Office.

Recreational vehicles may be parked or stored on private property as long as: 1) they are enclosed within a legal structure; 2) they are within a side or a rear yard enclosed by a solid wall or fence between 5 feet and 6 feet in height; and 3) they are not used for human habitation. The parking of recreational vehicles on City streets is regulated by the Police Dept. . Refer any complaints or questions to the **District Policing Office**. For parking on private property call the Code Enforcement Division at **621-8400**.

VEHICLE REPAIRING

Open repair of vehicles is prohibited in residentially zoned districts. You may add fluids, change a flat tire, jump start, and repair your own personal vehicle **inside** your garage. Call the Code Enforcement Division at **621-8400**.

VEHICLE THEFT

The Fresno Police Department and the California Highway Patrol have formed an auto theft task force, "Fresno H.E.A.T." (Help Eliminate Auto Theft). If you feel you have active auto thieves operating in your neighborhood or

possibly have a "chop shop" operating nearby, please call Fresno H.E.A.T. at **253-7045**. If it is an emergency, call 911.

WATERING SCHEDULE

SUMMERTIME (MARCH 2 - NOVEMBER 30)

Watering permitted on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday for addresses ending in **odd numbers**.

Watering permitted on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday for addresses ending in **even numbers**.

No watering permitted on Mondays, or any day during the hours of 6:00 to 8:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

WINTERTIME (DECEMBER 1 - MARCH 1)

Watering permitted any time on Saturdays for addresses ending in **odd numbers**.

Watering permitted any time on Sundays for addresses ending in **even numbers**.

For more information on the watering schedule or to report water abuse call **621-5300**.

YARD SALES

You may have two yard sales at your residence in any calendar year. They must conform to the following conditions: 1) each sale is limited to no longer than 72 hours; 2) no items may be displayed on the public right-of-way; 3) all items sold must have been used and no longer needed by the occupants of the residence; and 4) no signs are to be posted on public property. Call **621-8400**.

Community Resource Telephone Directory

DISABLED ADULT SERVICES

Blind & Handicapped Library Services	488-3217
Deaf & Disabled Services	1-800-7723140
Easter Seals Society of Central CA	264-7113
Friendship Center for the Blind	266-9496

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Medical Claims Filing Service	227-1827
Medicare	1-800-772-1213
Medical	488-1888
Renters Assistance	1-800-852-5711
Social Security Administration	1-800-772-1213
Veteran's Service Office	488-3436

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Congregate Dining Centers	488-3821
Home Delivery Meals	488-3821
Community Food Bank	237-3663

LEGAL SERVICES

Better Business Bureau	222-8111
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Notary Public	488-3821
Power of Attorney for Health Care	244-0930
Central California Legal Services	570-1200

UTILITIES ASSISTANCE

Energy Partners Program	1-800-933-9555
HEAP	263-1135
CARE	233-3057

TRANSPORTATION

Abby Medicab	275-2121
Angles on Wheels	243-0112
Fresno Dial A Ride	275-1296
Fresno Handi-Ride	443-5664

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Child Protective Services	255-8320
Adult Protective Services	255-3383
Rape Counseling Hotline	222-7273
Marjaree Mason Center	233-4357
Victim Services	488-3425